



Cape Coral Church of Christ

1010 S.W. 20th Avenue

Cape Coral, Florida 33991

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<http://www.thelordsway.com/capecoralfl>

Schedule of Services

Sunday: Bible Study: 9:30 A.M.

Worship: 10:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday: Bible Study: 6:00 P.M.

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What Should a Father Do?

Fathers are a strange lot. They get up early and leave the house; they don't come home until the close of day. I sensed early on in life that Daddy was important. He didn't stay at home as Mother did, but he seemed in control of the family. There was no question in my mind that you did what Daddy said. Mother taught it; Dad enforced it.

Later, when I became a father, I began to sense the awesome responsibility of providing for one's family. There was housing to be secured, food for the table, and clothing for the body. But that was only the beginning. Something much larger was at stake - the eternal welfare of every member of the family. Being the "head" of the house was no matter to be taken lightly. Thankfully, I found a handbook for fathers - the same one my father used - the Bible. I wasn't perfect, but the Book was. I still recommend that Book for every man trying to raise a family. It will give you insights at every turn in the road.

For example, take the statement of the apostle Paul: "For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of

you and encouraged you and charged you to lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory" (1 Thess. 2:11-12).

In these verses three verbs are connected with the role of the father: exhorted, encouraged, and charged. Children need to be exhorted to a life of right conduct. They need to be encouraged in their pursuit of that goal. And they need the authoritative charge of their father (God chose Abraham because He knew that Abraham would "charge his children and his household after him, to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice" (Gen. 18:19).

There is no job more important for any father than that of teaching his children "to lead a life worthy of God."

Be Careful, You're Bending That Twig

We are all aware of the old proverb that says, "As a twig is bent, so will it grow." And when we seriously consider this, we know it is true. But it is so easy to forget this lesson. For parents, Solomon expressed the same principle when he said, "Train up a child in the way that he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

Parents, remember, you are bending that twig. One way or the other, to the right or to the left, for better or for worse, you are determining the course of life which that child will take. Be careful, lest you bend it in the wrong way! Paul commanded parents to "Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). This includes:

- Train your children in morality – in clean thoughts, words, and deeds. "Wild oats" (corruption) that is practiced in childhood and adolescence cannot be productive of purity later. If you complacently watch their immodesty in childhood, you can expect to see impurity in adulthood.
- Train them to respect authority, always – the policeman, the teacher, the parent, and the Lord. If they do not learn to respect the first three, they will hardly respect the Lord either.
- Train them in honesty. It is still the best policy! Help them to regard truth and fidelity as precious qualities. Show them, by word

and by example that half-truth is only a lie and that a man's word should be as good as his bond.

Your children deserve the best you can give them. They did not ask to be born, and their destiny is not really theirs alone, but in your strong or weak will. And the best you can give them is not just measured in education, culture, financial security, etc., but in character which you produce in them.

Yes, you are bending that twig. Be sure you bend it right.

Who's Who in the Pew

A *Who's Who* is a publication giving biographical information on a select group of people. The *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges* is, obviously, a listing of notable students. *Strathmore Who's Who* lists important business and professional people, and *Who's Who in the Twentieth Century*, an Oxford reference publication, lists people from Einstein to the Marx brothers and provides biographies of men and women whose activities and thoughts have contributed to the culture of the twentieth century.

Here's a brief *Who's Who in The Pew* in today's congregations. There are Parents who are burdened because of their prodigal children. Grandparents raising children because if they don't, who will? Caregivers wondering if anyone understands? Single parents facing double duty. Brothers and Sisters struggling with secret sins and failing again and again. Smiling faces trying to hide their depression. A Childless Couple facing disappointment - again. Folks facing cancer and their fears. Parents struggling to raise a special-needs child. A Couple who are doing everything they know to keep their marriage together. Widows who sit down as one at a table for two. A Sister who is hiding the secret of being an abused wife. There are The Lonely, The Scared, The Hurting, and more.

They all come time and again. They come to share the table of the One who suffered for them. They lift up their voices in song while brushing away a tear. They come to pray for comfort to the One "Who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God" (2 Corinthians 1:4). They come

to hear the good news and look for a message of guidance and encouragement in their Christian lives. They are our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

This is a partial *Who's Who in The Pew*. Let's be more aware of others' needs and comfort each other with the comfort we've received from our Father in heaven.

What Would You "Undo?"

Whoever thought of "Undo" was a pure genius. I use that command nearly every time I'm typing away at the computer. What would we do without it now? Every mistake - big or small - can be taken back. Not many computer blunders are permanent. We can try any crazy thing that comes to mind because if we don't think it's quite right, we can always undo it.

How amazing would an undo feature be in real life? What if you could reverse a bad decision in a snap? In a heated discussion, your words went too far and rattled a friendship – no problem! With one click, you simply rewind the situation. You completely forgot about the test that now glares at you from your desktop? Don't worry! Undo that night of TV and crack open the books instead. The worst decision you ever made – what if you could have that moment back and make the better choice?

This is the part where you expect me to say, "Well, with Jesus, you can undo it all!" Sorry, but that would not be the truth. The gospel makes no such promise. We're never told that our mistakes will be clicked away with ease. There is no going back in time to take the higher path.

The plan of salvation is more loving and more costly than that. Our sins are removed by nothing less than the shed blood of Christ on the cross. Calvary shows the depth of God's love – an agonizing rescue, not a quick fix. Peter reminds us, "You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:18-19, ESV).

Furthermore, God uses the consequences of our actions to teach us how to align ourselves more and more with the character of His Son. To undo our actions – click them into oblivion – would be less loving than the plan He put in place.

Once again, God's answer is better than a solution I might dream up. As much as I might wish for a spiritual "undo," God knows the gospel is better news.